Message Text

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AMEBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 2046

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, DA

SUBJ: DANISH VIEWS ON EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING

- 1. RUDOLPH THORNING-PETERSEN (T-P), WHO, AS ACTING POLITICAL DIRECTOR ACCOMPANIED PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN TO LAST WEEK'S MEETING IN BRUSSELS, COMMENTED TO DCM JULY 21 ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE MEETING AS FOLLOWS.
- 2. REFLATIONARY MEASURES -- ASKED IF DENMARK WAS CONTEMPLATING ANY STEPS IN LINE WITH THE CONSENSUS THAT SOME FUTURE REFLATIONARY EFFORTS NEEDED TO BE UNDERTAKEN, T-P POINTED OUT THAT DENMARK FOR THE MOMENT HAD THE LOWEST INFLATION RATE AMONG THE NINE. THEREFORE, HE WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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NOT CERTAIN WHAT, IF ANY, STEPS WOULD BE TAKEN BUT SUG-

GESTED THAT THE FOREIGN ECONOMIC MINISTRY MIGHT HAVE SOME VIEWS (WHICH WE WILL CHECK). HE STATED THAT BOTH SCHMIDT AND GISCARD HAD BEEN RATHER SOMBER IN THEIR PROGNOSIS OF NEAR-TERM THAT IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO RESORT TO DEFICIT FINANCING. PRIMIN JORGENSEN HAD FOUND THIS INTERESTING BECAUSE IT WAS SOMETHING HE HAD RECENTLY SUGGESTED -- AND FOR WHICH HE HAD BEEN CRITICIZED BY HIS DOMESTIC OPPONENTS.

- 3. PORTUGAL -- (FONMIN K. B. ANDERSEN'S COMMENTS ON PORTUGAL ARE BEING FORWARDED IN SEPTEL). T-P SAID THAT THE DANISH POSITION WAS REALLY NOT OUT OF LINE WITH THAT OF MOST OF THE OTHERS OF THE NINE, WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF FRANCE. DENMARK WANTED TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT THERE WOULD BE NO SUGGESTION THAT THE EC HAD BEEN RESPONSIBLEFOR "KILLING DEMOCRACY" IN PORTUGAL. WHAT THE EC WAS CONSIDERING WAS A NUMBER OF WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS ONE-BY-ONE PROJECTS. IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO KEEP AN EYE ON EACH SO THAT IF THE SITUATION WENT SOUR IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO TURN THE SPIGOT OFF. THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL STATEMENT HAD REFERRED TO A PLURALISTIC SOCIETY, BUT DENMARK ALSO THOUGHT IT VERY IMPORTANT THAT PORTUGAL KEEP AN "OPEN SOCIETY" (ALTHOUGH T-P DID NOT DISTINGUISH CLEARLY BETWEEN THE MEANING OF THE TWO TERMS).
- 4. EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT -- DENMARK WOULD AWAIT WITH INTEREST THE REPORT WHICH THE STUDY GROUP OF FOREIGN MIN-ISTERS WOULD LAY BEFORE THE PRIME MINISTER IN DECEMBER. IN ACCEPTING THE ROME TREATY, DENMARK HAD ACCEPTED THE PRINCIPLE OF DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE PARLIAMENT BUT, AS WAS KNOWN, HAD IN 1974 TAKEN A RESERVATION AS TO THE TIME WHEN DIRECT ELECTIONS WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED. T-P WENT ON TO SAY THAT THERE WERE VARIOUS CONSIDERATIONS WHICH CAUSED THE DANES TO CHOOSE A CAUTIOUS APPROACH ON THIS QUESTION. FOR ONE THING, THEY COULD FORESEE THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING A PARTY REPRESENTED IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WHICH HAD CEASED TO PLAY A ROLE IN THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENT SEVERAL YEARS PREVIOSULY. ANOTHER CONSIDERATION WAS THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR THE SMALLER COUNTRIES TO HAVE TWO SETS OF PARLIAMENTARIANS. WHAT QUALITY WOULD YOU GET, HE ASKED? AFTER ALL, THE AMBITION OF EVERY POLITICIAN IS TO OBTAIN POWER, AND THE WAY TO DO THIS LOOKS LIKE IT WILL CONTINUE TO BE THROUGH WORKING IN A NATIONAL CONFIDENTIAL.

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PARLIAMENT. T-P SAID HE HAD ONCE EXPLAINED TO THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS THAT THE DANES WOULD LIKE TO SEE "THAT THE WALLS WERE SAFE BEFORE BUILDING A ROOF ON TOP".

5. CONFERENCE BETWEEN "SOCIAL PARTNERS" -- PRIME MINISTE JORGENSEN WAS ESPECIALLY PLEASED WITH THE AGREEMENT ON THIS SUBJECT BECAUSE HE REGARDED IT AS HIS OWN.

6. CSCE DECLARATION T-P SAID IT WAS HIS UNDER-
STANDING THAT THE CSCE DECLARATION AGREED IN THE EUROPEAN
COUNCIL WOULD BE RELEASED JUST BEFORE THE MEETING IN HELSINKI
CROWE

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